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BISHOP'S LETTER

This year, 2014 is the 60th anniversary of the Taiwan Episcopal Church, thanks be to Almighty God! In honor of this great occasion, the Diocese of Taiwan (in cooperation with the Province of Hong Kong) has decided to publish a special commemorative edition of the revised Mandarin Chinese Bible with Apocrypha. It is the same translation as used by Hong Kong for their centenary Bibles and is being published there, but the cover will show the Diocese of Taiwan logo and there will also be an insert about the Taiwan Episcopal Church and its history. We have taken orders from our churches, and so we are ordering 1,400 individual copies and 900 copies for church use.

We thank God for His leading over the past 60 years and we pray that this will be a good way to mark such a memorable event. There are 4 main purposes behind this decision:

Our faith is 3-fold, relying on the Bible, tradition and reason. The Bible is the most important; our faith code is according to the Bible. All those

HAPPY CAMPERS! DIOCESE OF TAIWAN FAMILY CAMP: SUN MOON LAKE, NOVEMBER 21-22, 2013

who contributed to the Bible writings were guided by the Holy Spirit. The commandments, rules, laws and teachings all wisely teach us how to be good disciples. In our daily public worship, both morning and evening, we always read 2 or 3 Bible texts and a psalm. We praise the Lord that when we follow the teachings of the Lord, He guides our way.

In our Sunday services and in our daily office, occasionally the Apocrypha will appear as one of the readings, but not too many people have their own copy to read. We know that the Apocrypha is dated between the Old and New Testament times. Although it is not considered a necessary part of the Bible, in fact the teachings, messages and stories contained in the Apocrypha are also very valuable and can help us to know the cultural, religious and political situation at the time. I believe that including the Apocrypha will help the faith of our church members to increase in breadth and depth.

For many years, I have encouraged our church members to carry their own Bibles to church each Sunday and also to make daily Bible reading a habit. This habit can increase our faith and help our outreach ministry. We do believe that through this, we can more deeply know the teachings of the Lord and share God's grace and mercy with others. We hope that not only will this Bible be a blessing to our church members themselves, but also as gifts for relatives and friends; after all it is the most precious gift that we can give to others.

For the last 6 years we have been doing a program of Sunday text readings, with an exam at the end of every 2 months. I believe that for most of our church members this has led to a deeper faith. We need to encourage and remind ourselves every day that we need an encounter with God through reading the Bible.

Starting in 2014, the diocese has expanded the Sunday Text Exam Program, and this year we start a Daily Text Exam Program. We will follow a 2-month program each time, with exams on the last Sunday (after the main service) of each odd-numbered month. All of us clergy will take it in turns to share the most important message of each daily text. These thoughts are to be circulated to the participating church members for their encouragement. At the end of the program, I hope to publish all these, along with the exam papers themselves, in a book.

We believe that anyone who desires to enjoy drinking of the living water of the word of God, as a result of daily Bible reading practice, will no longer be spiritually thirsty. Our lives will be like Isaiah 11 2-4: 'The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord - and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.'

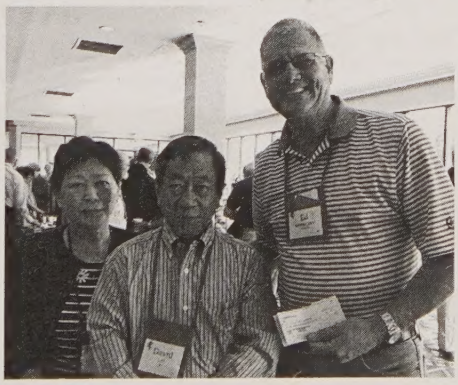
Our lives will be as steady as a rock, and such a firm foundation will encourage us to face challenges and to have victory over Satan. Under His guidance, we can know the peace and joy of the Lord in our walk towards heaven. Paul's advice in Colossians 3: 12-17 is very valuable teaching for us:

'Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.'

Bishop Lai represented Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori at the enthronement of Bishop Clyde Igara as the new Archbishop of New Guinea, on Sunday October 20 in Dogura Cathedral, Papua New Guinea.

Bishop and Mrs. Lily Lai visited Japan from November 2-10 to attend the 90th anniversary of our companion diocese, the Diocese of Osaka, on Monday November 4. This was followed by official visits to the Dioceses of Kobe and Kyoto. The visit included Bishop Lai preaching at St. Andrew's Church, Osaka on Sunday November 3, and Christ Church, Nara, Kyoto on Sunday November 10.

For these 2 years, 2013-2014, Bishop Lai is chair of the National Council of Churches of Taiwan, NCCT. This year the annual NCCT Sports Day was organized on Saturday November 16 by one of the NCCT member-organizations, The Garden of Hope Foundation which promotes an end to violence against women and supports victims of domestic violence. The event was a V-MEN charity road race, named after similar events in Canada, and included the activity 'walk a mile in her shoes' whereby men wear high-heels for a walking race to give them a better understanding of what it is like to be a woman. About 40 members of the Taiwan Episcopal Church participated in the event, led by Bishop Lai and also Rev. Peter Chen (see top 2 photos).



The autumn clergy retreat took place at the Grand Hotel, Kaohsiung on Wednesday November 20. This was followed by a 2-day trip to Sun Moon Lake for the Diocese of Taiwan Evergreen seniors group and the diocesan women's fellowship. About 70 people took part (see front cover photo).

Two financial gifts to help those stricken by recent disasters have come from donations from our churches and church members. Firstly, at the House of Bishops Meeting in September, Bishop Lai presented a check for US$ 1,751 to Bishop Edward J. Konieczny, Bishop of Oklahoma to help their ministry to those affected by the tornadoes in May 2013 (see left photo).

Secondly, on December 23, 2013, the Diocese of Taiwan sent a check for US$ 6,000 to Prime Bishop Edward Malecdan of the Episcopal Church of the Philippines for the provincial relief work following the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013.

Bishop Lai's visit to Papua New Guinea, by Bishop David J. H. Lai

As Taiwan is part of the Episcopal Church, I had the honor of representing Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori at the enthronement of Clyde Igara (seen in the photo with me, right) as the new Archbishop of New Guinea on Sunday October 20. My visit to Papua New Guinea for the occasion was certainly an exciting experience for me! Although I left Taiwan on the Monday evening, the journey was long and complicated and Dogura Cathedral is so remote, that it was not until Friday evening that we reached our final destination. Dogura Cathedral is reached from the capital Port Moresby by a domestic flight, then a drive, then a boat. On the way there, the boat journey took 2 hours because the water was so calm but on the way back it was quite windy and with big waves, also it was dark. It was exciting but also a little nerve-wracking to be in that small motor boat in the dark for 3 hours in rough seas with no life jackets! But the scenery was beautiful and it was an honor to be able to land at the place where the first missionaries from Australia had landed in 1891 to start to share the Gospel. A cross still marks the place, and that is also where the cathedral is.

About 2,000 people attended the service, it was moving to see that the cathedral has no seats of any kind and everyone sits on the floor on small mats. The area is in the mountains but near a small village. The only electrical power is by generator and there are no phone signals. The service was in English as there are thousands of languages in PNG. Many of the tribes sang and danced in their native languages, costumes and styles.

The Anglican Board of Mission from Australia also sent 3 representatives to attend the celebrations. There were 6 bishops there, including 2 primates, one from the Solomon Islands, and one from Polynesia. Bishop Jonathan Meyrick, Suffragan Bishop of Lynn, England represented the Archbishop of Canterbury. We also had the Provincial Governor in attendance and some politicians, plus bishops and church leaders from other denominations in PNG. We had a fruitful round-table meeting on Saturday to discuss future possible cooperation and possible projects.

I was very moved by the basic lifestyle of the people, and the lack of even basic necessities, such as electricity. In the modern world, we are so focused on having everything at our convenience that it is difficult for us to get used to having to do without so much. And yet the people were so joyful and appreciative of our visit.

A few weeks after my return to Taiwan I had the wonderful opportunity to share with our clergy at their autumn retreat about the visit to PNG and lessons we can learn here in Taiwan.

News from Osaka Diocese, by Rev. Akira Peter Iwaki

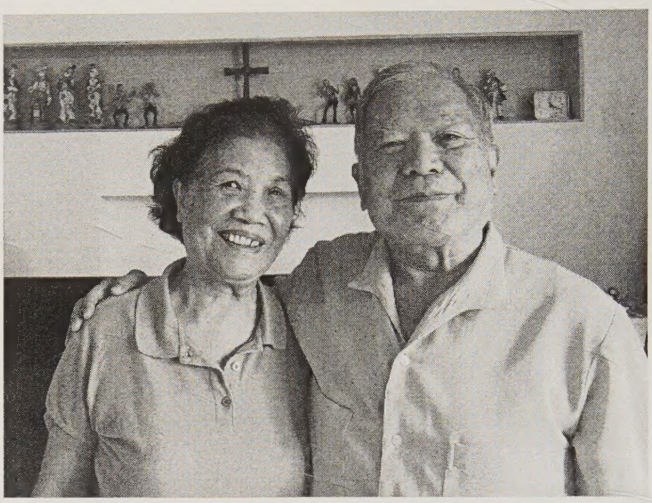
The year 2013 saw the 90th anniversary of the formation of the Diocese of Osaka, NSKK. The NSKK itself was created as an independent Anglican/Episcopal Church in 1887, but before 1923 there were only several Missionary Districts in Japan. In 1923, both Tokyo and Osaka Dioceses were established as the first Dioceses of NSKK and two Japanese bishops were elected. The Diocese of Osaka held a commemoration service on November 4, at the Mary's Hall of Poole Gakuin High School. Around 1,000 people attended the service in a joyful and excited atmosphere (see photos above). Rt. Revd. David Lai and his wife were invited too. They also visited the Dioceses of Kobe and Kyoto.

On December 2, deacon Takamitsu Okumura was ordained to the priesthood (see photos below). About 200 people attended the Eucharist and party. He has visited Taiwan several times, including the international youth camp. He has been appointed to the curacy at Holy Redeemer Church. Next year we expect to see the ordination of three more deacons to the priesthood.

Osaka Diocese is sending a delegation of about 20 people, led by Bishop Onishi, to the 60th anniversary of the Taiwan Episcopal Church to be held on April 26 in Taichung. We are all happy to be able to see our friends of the Taiwan Episcopal Church.

My Story: Rev. Michael Liu Ting-Hua 劉定華牧師

REV. MICHAEL T. H. LIU AND MRS. GRACE LIU



Every afternoon at 4:00pm, Rev. Michael Liu and his wife Grace meet their 2 small grandchildren from school and bring them home to their 17th floor apartment, near St. John's Cathedral in Taipei City. While they cook the dinner, the children do their homework, and when their parents come home from work, the whole family eats together. From the way their eyes light up as they share this story, it is clearly the highlight of the day for both Michael and Grace. Ah, the delights of retirement!

But first, back to the very beginning! Michael's life story begins as a seventeenth (yes, 17th!) generation Taiwanese, born on March 31, 1939 in southern Taiwan, Yunlin County, in the town of Si-Luo 雲林縣西螺鎮. In fact he was actually born 4 days later, on April 3, but at the time Taiwan came under the Japanese Colonial System, and the date of the new school year was always April 1. A delay of a whole year in starting school just because he was born 3 days after the cut-off date seemed unnecessarily long, and so his mother registered him as being born on March 31. In those days this was a common practice, and many people of that generation have 2 different dates of birth, the real one and the one stated on their ID card!

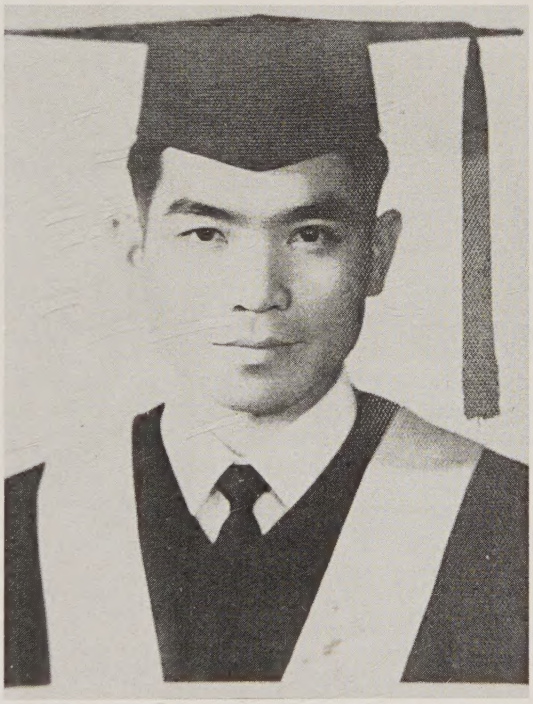
REV. MICHAEL LIU AS A SMALL CHILD WITH HIS MOTHER AND 2 OLDER SISTERS

Michael's paternal grandfather was an educated person and worked in a responsible job as steward at the Wen-Cheng Confucius Temple. Students and all those preparing for exams were frequent visitors to the temple to pray for good results. The family was delighted when their son, Michael's father, won a scholarship to study medicine at the Imperial Medical College in Taipei. After graduation as a doctor, he worked in Tainan Provincial Hospital, southern Taiwan.

Michael's mother came from a family of wealthy landowners; she herself was a graduate of Tainan Second Girls' High School (the First Girls' High School was for Japanese girls only). She worked as a teacher, and after their marriage, they had 2 daughters and then a son, Michael. However, tragedy hit the young family when Michael's father died of malaria when his son was only 3 years old. Life changed dramatically. At first, Michael's mother worked as a teacher supporting the 3 children on her own, but at the end of the Japanese Colonial Period in 1945, she moved with the children back to Si-Luo to live with her own family under the care of her brother. It was a traditional family who were devout and serious in following the folk religion customs of their ancestors, with large gatherings for ancestor and idol worship.

Michael's father had

had some limited contact with the Christian faith at school, and Michael's mother had spent a year at Chang-Rung Presbyterian Girls' High School in Tainan, where she had learned to read the Taiwanese Bible in Romanized script. Michael's first direct contact with the Christian faith came when he went to study at Chang-Rung Presbyterian Boy's Senior High School at the age of 15. It was a boarding school, with daily morning and evening prayer services, and Michael loved it! The music was wonderful and he loved to sing; he remembers well the first hymn he ever heard and learned to sing: 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. Every morning and evening, he would go off to the services with his hymn book and Bible, and he thrived on the experience. On Sundays all boarding school students had to attend the morning service in Dong-Men Presbyterian Church, Tainan. Michael just loved going to church! During the school holidays he was so desperate to go to church on Sundays that he would carefully wrap his Bible and hymn book in a package and tell his family it was his lunchbox, and off he would go to the service at Si-Luo Presbyterian Church! His mother knew where he was going, but his uncle was very conservative; as they relied on the uncle so much for everything, they needed to keep him in the dark about Michael's church-going activities!



REV. MICHAEL LIU ON HIS GRADUATION FROM TAINAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE 1966

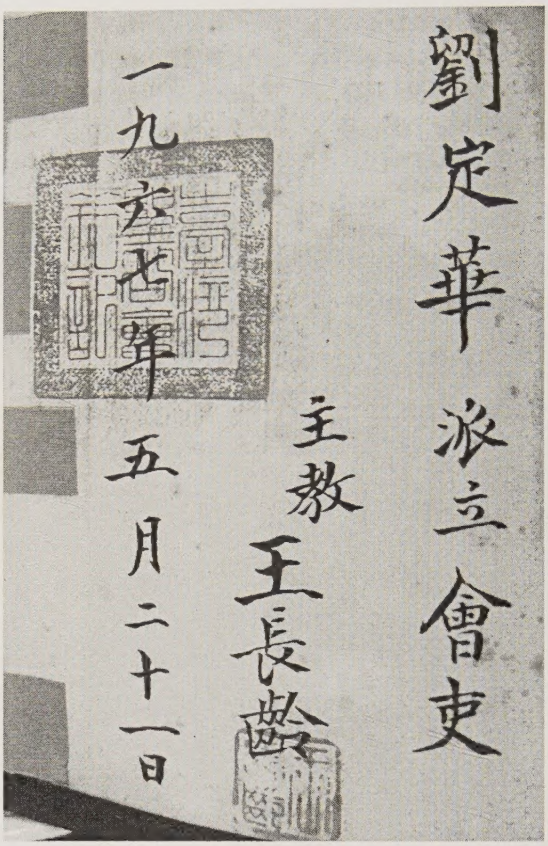
Michael loved music so much that in his third year at the school he joined the church choir at Dong-Men. That year also, 1958, he was baptized at the church. His mother knew of his baptism, and later she too would be baptized, without anyone in the family knowing. In later years, after his uncle discovered that Michael was a Christian and whenever he invited him for a meal, his uncle would say, "Let Michael think before we eat", never ever mentioning the word 'pray'!

One day a pastor at the Morning Prayer service preached a sermon that Michael would never forget. The verse, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few' (Luke 10:2) was the theme, and it was to change Michael's life forever. From that moment onwards, he knew he was called to dedicate his life to sharing the Gospel with others. So he took the entrance exam for Tainan Theological College and started his 6 years of study there, which included one year of study at Tung-Hai University in Taichung. Tainan Theological College was also the place where Episcopal Church students trained for the ministry. At the time, most of the Episcopal clergy were from mainland China, and only spoke Mandarin Chinese. Every weekend, students were assigned to different churches for their fieldwork. In his second year of study, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Jie-Ding, a fishing village in Kaohsiung County, requested the college to send them a student who could interpret from Chinese to Taiwanese language, play the organ and teach the Sunday School. Michael was chosen, and off he went every Sunday morning to help. It was his first experience of the Episcopal Church, and he continued to serve there for 3 years. But another church was also calling out for his help, Hai-Pu Presbyterian Church near Tainan, so he would go there on Saturday evenings for choir practice and Sunday afternoons for their service. Amazingly, it was at Hai-Pu Church that he met the girl who would become his wife, Ms. Grace Lee 李素滋. At that time she was 18, he was 23; Grace played the piano for the choir practice, Michael directed. Exactly who chased who in this story is subject to some debate between them – but it was certainly the beginning of a long and beautiful relationship!

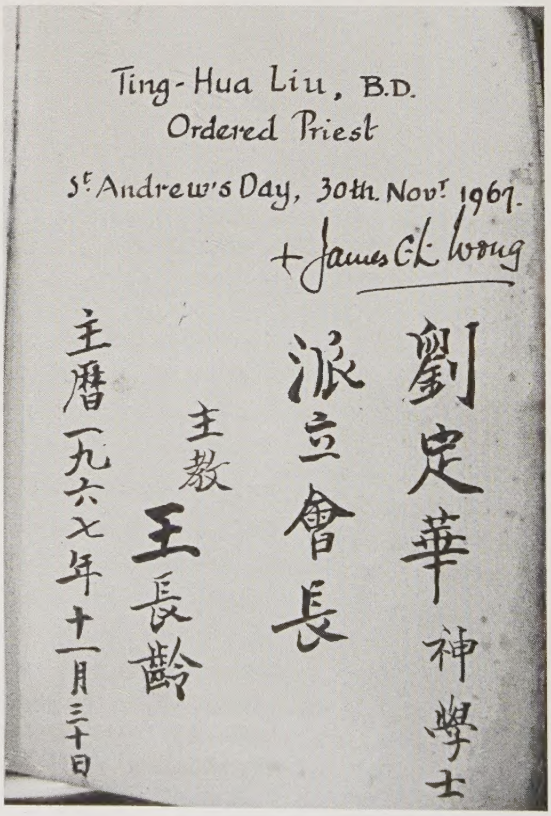
Grace was the youngest of 6 children from a devout Christian family. Her father was originally from a

non-Christian family but had been orphaned at the age of 3, and was adopted by an evangelist who brought him up to be a committed Christian. Her mother was from a Christian family and had had a Christian education. The Lee family of 8 had family worship every evening together, a practice that Grace and Michael would then continue with their own family for many years to come. Grace went on to study and graduate from Tainan Teachers College as an elementary school teacher, a skill that would serve her well throughout her life and ministry.

The government in Taiwan does not give accreditation to Theological Colleges (unless they are part of a university), and as a result, once they reached adulthood, male students at Tainan Theological College could be called up at any time to do their 2-3 years military service. Thus it was that in his fourth year of study, Michael was called up to serve in the army, which he did in Tainan. After military service, Michael had 2 more years of study before graduation. In 1966, he graduated M.Div. from Tainan Theological College. Having received a 6-year scholarship from the Taiwan Presbyterian Church, in theory he could now be sent anywhere in Taiwan to serve as evangelist. On Graduation Day, Bishop James Wong of the Taiwan Episcopal Church, Principal Sung of Tainan Theological College and Taiwan Presbyterian Church General Secretary Huang held a meeting, at which Bishop James Wong requested the Presbyterian Church to allow Michael to transfer and instead serve in the Episcopal Church. After all, the Taiwan Episcopal Church was desperately short of clergy from a Taiwanese background, and with Michael's experience of serving at St. Andrew's, he was the ideal person! Bishop Wong offered to repay the 6 years scholarship money and all his school fees. General Secretary Huang agreed to lend Michael to the Episcopal Church ('for 99 years', Michael is always fond of adding!) and said there was no need to repay the money, the understanding being that if the Presbyterian Church needed him, he could come back. Such was the good relationship and depth of ecumenical cooperation between Taiwan's Presbyterian and Episcopal Churches!



INSCRIPTIONS BY BISHOP JAMES C. L. WONG: IN REV. MICHAEL LIU'S NEW TESTAMENT GIVEN ON HIS ORDINATION AS DEACON (ABOVE) AND HIS BIBLE GIVEN ON HIS ORDINATION AS PRIEST (BELOW)



Michael was happy with the transfer, and was sent for a year to St. Michael's House, Tainan (a training and accommodation base for Episcopal clergy) as secretary to Archdeacon Patric Hutton, to learn Anglican liturgy. On Sundays he helped serve at

Grace Church, Tainan, and on Wednesdays and Saturdays he would go to help Rev. Samuel Chen Ta-Tung (vicar of St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi) at Gou-Bei Mission Station, home of his classmate, John C. T. Chien (later to be Bishop of Taiwan). There he could put his musical skills and Taiwanese language to full use in interpreting the sermon, and teaching Presbyterian hymns in Taiwanese (the Episcopal Hymn Book was only in Mandarin Chinese).

On January 16, 1967, Michael and Grace were married at Grace Church, Tainan by Bishop James Wong. Thus began a memorable year! Ordination as deacon was on May 21, 1967, followed by ordination as priest on November 30, 1967, at both events along with 3 classmates, including John Chien.

REV. MICHAEL LIU AND GRACE ON THEIR WEDDING DAY WITH BISHOP JAMES C. L. WONG, 1967

While John Chien was sent to serve at St. Andrew's Church, Jie-Ding, Michael was sent to St. Peter's Church, Chia-Yi which also ran the Gou-Bei Mission Station. Newly married, Michael and Grace settled down and it was in Chia-Yi that all 3 of their children were born, separated by only 20 months each, Miriam in 1968, Timothy in 1969 and Emilia in 1971. Soon after her retirement, Michael's mother also joined them, following the tradition that it is the oldest (or only) son who takes responsibility for the care of his parents; happily she was able to help take care of her 3 young grandchildren.

In 1973, Michael received a bursary from the Church Mission Society (CMS) in UK and Ireland to spend a year there learning about church music and sharing about Taiwan, partly with the aim of raising money to rebuild and expand St. Michael's House. Based in Dublin, he spent 3 months in Ireland, followed by the rest of the year in England and Scotland, including 2 weeks at the Royal School of Church Music, and 3 months at Crowther Hall, CMS Training College in Birmingham. Grace meanwhile was back in Chia-Yi, teaching full-time, also teaching Sunday School, playing the piano for services, as well as looking after 3 young children and her mother in law!

On his return from the UK in 1974, Michael was assigned to Grace Church, Tainan. Bishop Pong encouraged the clergy to find ways to raise money to cover all the finances of their own church, and to reduce reliance on the diocese. At that time, Grace Church congregation was worshiping in an old Japanese-style house. Michael suggested to the bishop that the house and the land could be sold, and with the money, a new piece of land be bought on which to build a kindergarten, and with the money raised from the kindergarten, at a later date build a new church. A donation from United Thank Offering of US$ 25,000 helped considerably and so a new kindergarten was built and the ministry started, with Michael as kindergarten principal, assisted by Grace in the evenings and weekends. Within 6 years, the number of pupils went from 0 to 366!

In 1986, Michael was sent for further study overseas, this time to General Seminary in New York for 6 months to study Church Music. While he was there, he also translated the Psalter into Chinese, and published the first Chinese edition of 'Anglican Chant' (an updated and bigger print version was published as the second edition in 2008). On his return to Taiwan, he moved back to St. Michael's House in Tainan to help missionary Rev. Roy Taylor, and to assist with the St. Timothy's Taiwanese congregation at St. Paul's Church, Kaohsiung. Af-

ter a year there, a new call came, this time to St. John's Cathedral as dean. Michael was truly in his element with the cathedral music! He bought an electronic pipe organ and introduced Sung Eucharist every Sunday. Grace retired from teaching and took over St. John's Cathedral Kindergarten as principal. Through her dedication and hard work the kindergarten rose through the ranks to become the best in the city, and Grace was honored with all sorts of awards. She also used her experience to advise the Diocese of Sabah in their new kindergarten ministry; over the years she made 6 trips there to run workshops and training sessions for their teachers. On one of those trips she was the sole passenger on the flight, sitting alone in the huge airplane; Michael still refers to her as 'the queen' even now!

In 1997, Bishop John Chien asked Michael to return to southern Taiwan to take responsibility for the construction and establishment of St. Timothy's Church, Kaohsiung. Within 3 years, the church was ready, but at the same time, someone was needed to take over at St. Paul's Church, Kaohsiung and to try to help the kindergarten get back on its feet. At one time, St. Paul's Kindergarten had had over 500 students, but when Michael and Grace took over, it was down to only 60 or so. Grace launched into action! She became principal, and within 3 years, the kindergarten was receiving awards for excellence. In fact, Grace continues to act as Supervisor of St. Paul's Kindergarten even today. Meanwhile Michael put much energy into the translation work of the American Book of Common Prayer (1997), which was finally published in 2010 for the first time as a complete Chinese edition.

In 2006, by now fully retired, Michael and Grace returned to Taipei, to enjoy their retirement. These days, Michael preaches once a month at Advent Church, and once every 3 months at St. John's Cathedral, while Grace is voluntarily in charge of the diocesan kindergarten ministry. Both Michael and Grace are optimistic about the future of the Taiwan Episcopal Church, which started very small, but through hard work and God's blessing, is now much stronger. The kindergarten ministry faces huge challenges, especially with a fast declining birth rate, and each kindergarten needs to work hard to develop specialties to attract and keep students. But both say without doubt that their greatest blessing is their family. Their eldest daughter lives in an apartment upstairs, their son and his family live in the next block, and their youngest daughter lives with her husband and 2 small children in Chicago, U.S.A. They are especially grateful to God that their daughter-in-law was baptized soon after marriage, and is now a devout Christian, teaching in the St. John's Cathedral Sunday School, where her husband is deputy churchwarden. Their experience testifies to the strong foundation provided by a devout Christian family; thanks be to Almighty God for the dedication that keeps the Rev. Michael Liu and his family strong in their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

THE LIU FAMILY, MARCH 2013

ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY, TAMSUI

Chaplain: Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung 張員榮牧師

Over 150 people from all over the world, alumni from St. John's University, Shanghai (known as Johanneans), attended their Tenth World Johannean Reunion in Taipei, based at the Grand Hotel. On October 31, they spent the day at St. John's University, including the official opening of the St. John's University, Shanghai, Archives and Research Center on the sixth floor of the SJU Library Building. The opening ceremony was led by Bishop Lai (see top photo). The new center houses beautifully presented displays, information and all the archives related to the history of SJU, Shanghai. We were pleased to welcome Ms. Wong and Ms. Pong from Hong Kong (see middle photo with Chaplain Lennon Chang), who also make a special effort to visit Advent Church. On the second day, the group visited the Lin Family Gardens in Ban-chiao, and completed their reunion with a Banquet at the Grand Hotel. Following the reunion, many of the group traveled around Taiwan to the south and eastern scenic areas in tours organized by SJU Taiwan and the SJU Alumni Association.

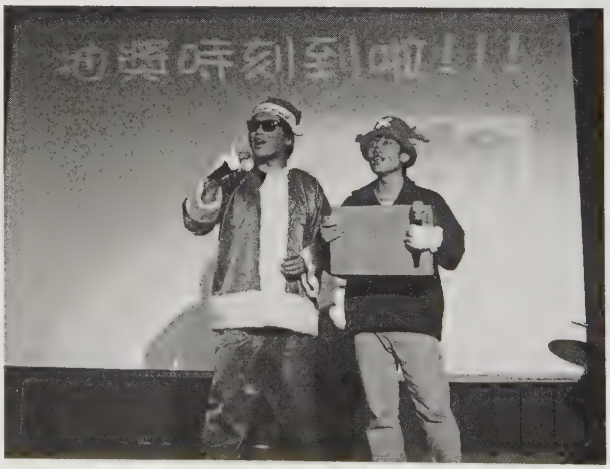
Over 150 parents, plus all the first year students of St. John's University attended the annual Coming-of Age Ceremony at SJU on November 13. All students wore brand new red ties bearing a newly-designed SJU logo (see bottom photos). Parents and faculty were presented with flowers, there were speeches from students in both Chinese and English and every student had a small cup of wine as a symbol of their reaching adulthood. Bishop Lai blessed the wine and also blessed the students and parents at the close of the ceremony. This ceremony is a very meaningful and well-supported activity, and has received much praise from the Department of Education inspectors.

The annual Advent Walkabouts (see top photos) around St. John's University took place in 2013, with SJU Chaplain Lennon Chang and members of the chaplaincy and church staff accompanying him. Every department office and administrative office of the university hosts an Advent wreath during the month leading up to Christmas. Every week the walkabout includes a visit to each office, a prayer, song, Bible reading, and the lighting of the Advent candles. This is a very meaningful and moving way of celebrating Advent, and preparing for Christmas.

draw attention to the problem in society. This was a combined effort by the SJU faculty, staff and students, Advent Church staff and church members and the local community.

Three of the SJU Student Fellowship students were baptized on Christmas Eve in Advent Church. Earlier in the term, the students held their own Christmas outreach event with singing, drama, games and refreshments (see photo below).

The SJU Christmas Charity Bazaar, organized each year by the SJU Chaplaincy, took place on December 18 (see middle photos). This year, the charity chosen to receive the money was the 'Garden of Hope', who work to support victims of domestic violence and to



The good news is that after many months of delays, the construction of the long-awaited Advent Church Center finally starts on January 23, 2014! We give thanks to God for this good news. Please do pray with us for the project and for the safety of the workers.

ADVENT CHURCH, TAMSUI

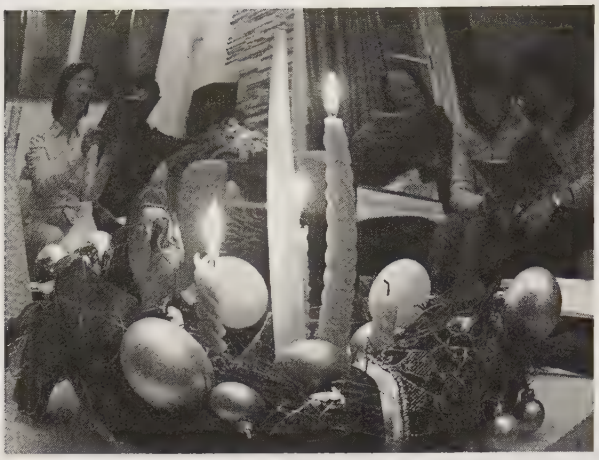
Rev Lennon Chang Yuan-Rung 張員榮牧師 Mr. Wu Shing-Shiang 吳興祥傳道

On Saturday November 2, we celebrated the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Tien (see photo above left). Mr. Tien is a newly-baptized church member, also an alumnus of St. Johns' University. His mother has worked at the university for well over 30 years, and is a member of the university staff Christian Fellowship.

Our Advent Church administrator, Ms. Wang and her husband Mr. Lee sang a beautiful duet at the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Tien. However only a few days after the wedding, Ms. Wang was admitted to hospital; she died peacefully on November 25. Her Memorial Service was held in Advent Church on Sunday December 15 at 3:00pm (see photo right) and attended by family and friends from all over the world. We give thanks for her life and faith, her cheerfulness in the face of illness, and her commitment and service to Advent Church.

On Saturday November 9, Advent Church held an outing to Taoyuan County to visit scenic sites and to enjoy fellowship together. A coachload of church members, family and friends, enjoyed a day of unseasonably hot and sunny weather. We finished the day at a special seafood restaurant, where we also celebrated the 90th birthday of Tan Mama, one of our oldest church members!

On Saturday November 30, we celebrated the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Huang (see photo above right), both church members. Mr.



Huang is also the son of our Advent Church Senior Warden, Ms. Pen. We were delighted to welcome so many members of the Huang family, and also many friends of the couple who had traveled from Japan especially for the celebrations.

On Christmas Eve, we held our main Christmas service and baptisms at Advent Church. We were especially pleased that 3 of our students from the SJU Student Fellowship were baptized. The following Sunday, December 29, Bishop Lai visited for a Confirmation Service for 6 adults, including the 3 newly baptized students (see middle photo). The service was the Sunday after St. John's Day, and the students led much of the service. In the afternoon they all organized a Children's Christmas Party for the Sunday School and local community children (see bottom photo). We were delighted that over 60 children came along together with many of their parents.

After several years of delays, the new Advent Church Center / Parish Hall is scheduled to start construction on January 23. Work has already begun on preparing the land. The electrical substation located on the building lot is presently being relocated so that work can start. The building site is behind the church building, and is scheduled for completion in September 2014. Please pray for this project.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH, TAIPEI

Rev. Lily Chang Ling-Ling 張玲玲牧師, English Chaplain: Rev. Herbert Barker

50th Anniversary of Good Shepherd Church

On October 26, 2013 the Church of the Good Shepherd celebrated its 50th Anniversary with Bishop David Lai leading the celebration in the church's sanctuary and in the court yard. The Church of the Good Shepherd is one of a kind Christian community in the Episcopal Diocese of Taiwan, perhaps, in the world. It was founded to be a house of prayer of all peoples.

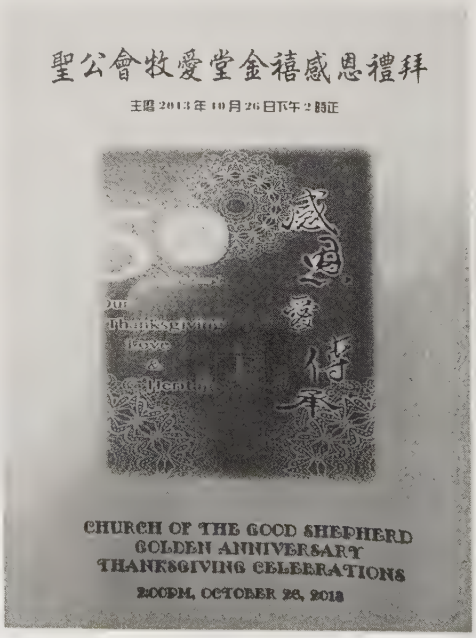
The founders of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd intended for it to be a Christian community whose members come from every walk of life, various denominations, both Protestant and Catholic. They also aimed for it to be composed of international members and representatives from diverse cultures, and who spoke many languages. English and Chinese would be the primary languages spoken in the services at the Church of the Good Shepherd, but during fellowship hour one can hear many conversations in a variety of languages.

The Church of the Good Shepherd is unique also because its founders were military men, Lt. Col. Robert E. Hammerquist, Major Richard. S. Craig, and General Liu, Teh-hsing. Yes, military men founded the community of the Good Shepherd Church. One hardly expects warriors to be disciples of the Prince of Peace, but here we are the heirs of Christian soldiers.

As you look through the Good Shepherd's Face book pages, you will find photos of these soldiers and over 150 photos of the first 10 years. During the early years the majority of members were from the U.S. military community as you may expect; however, today you will still find a few retired U.S. military members part of the congregation including Father Herbert Barker, who is a retired US Navy Commander. Today the majority of members are from the Chinese community.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH 1971, VEN. PATRIC HUTTON'S FAREWELL AS HE RETURNED TO THE USA

Although the beginnings of the church were within the American military community, early it was led by Chinese Anglican/Episcopal priests. Father Edmund Der (known as Father Hsieh in Chinese) was vicar at Good Shepherd from 1966-1968. Father Der joined us for the celebration. He and his wife journeyed from Canada to be with us. He presided over the opening ceremony of the current Church of the Good Shepherd chapel on Chungcheng Road (Zhongzheng Road) in Shilin on December 21, 1966. Also in attendance were former vicars of the Good Shepherd. Following the celebrative service, the entire congregation entered into the courtyard to participate in the special performances and activities. Leading the activities was a combined master of ceremonies effort by Diego and Scott from both the Chinese and English congregations. They put on a fun show switching languages from Chinese to English - English to Chinese, which definitely displays the special quality of the Good Shepherd's congregation – we are of one spirit and one congregation.



May the spirit of universal love rule at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd for another 50 years, and beyond. Come be refreshed at our oasis church in the midst of Shilin, Taiwan. Our doors, minds, and hearts are open to all. We make strangers, friends.

By Scott J. Ellinger, Lt. Col, US Army, Retired, Vestry Member, Church of the Good Shepherd.

In commemoration of our 50th anniversary we also produced special bags with the anniversary logo printed on, and jewelry crosses (Nestorian Cross, the one that hangs above the altar). During the anniversary service, new candles and a gold communion set (see middle photo right) were dedicated and blessed.

We thank God that the church was full for the service, and about 200 people attended the entertainment and banquet after the service (see photos below). Many Episcopal Churches throughout Taiwan were represented by their clergy and/or church members. Other churches in the Shilin area were also represented, and leaders of the local community came along to offer their congratulations.

We were honored that Rev. Edmund Der (see photo above right - with SJU President Chen Jean-Lien) and his wife could spend a whole week in Taipei and had many opportunities to visit friends and church members. He also preached at Good Shepherd Church the following day.

Just a few days prior to the anniversary service, we were surprised to receive another visitor with a long history at Good Shepherd Church, Mr. Liu, son of General Liu, Teh-hsing, who visited with his wife (see top photo above left).

We give thanks to Almighty God for his faithfulness throughout these past 50 years, and pray for His guidance as we seek to follow Him into the future.

CHRIST CHURCH, CHUNG-LI

Rev. Lily Chang Ling-Ling 張玲玲牧師

For the first time ever, Christ Church held a Christmas Eve service and we were delighted that Rev. Charles C. T. Chen could be with us for the occasion to preach and celebrate the Eucharist. 26 people attended (see top photo).

Just before Christmas, on December 22, we held our Christmas Party for the church and local community, 73 people came along (see bottom photo). We had lots of music and sharing, plus a chance for everyone to make their own Christmas cookies and cakes. We felt that this was a very successful outreach. The 3 children in the middle photo are 3 of our church members, and we used this photo on the invitation card for the Christmas Party which we distributed around the community.

We have just started an Alpha Course at Christ Church and we have 6 new people coming along. The first class was on January 3, and it will last until the end of March. We hold the classes on Friday evenings from 6:30pm, starting with a meal.

In January and February, our rector, Rev. Lily Chang is in the USA at Virginia Theological Seminary on study leave, so we are grateful to Good Shepherd Church Senior Warden Rev. Richard Hu for his help leading some of the Alpha sessions.

We also have a Reading Club on Thursday mornings for local ladies, and currently we are reading the book, 'How to Pray for your Children' by Stormie Omartian.

Our church intern, Mr. Marco Xie Zhao-Ming, is moving to Trinity Church as from February 1, and we look forward to welcoming Mr. Antony Liang Fan-Wei, currently church intern at Trinity Church, as he moves to join us here at Good Shepherd and Christ Church.

ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, HUA-LIEN

Rev. Joseph Wu Ming-Long 吳明龍牧師

We started our Christmas Eve celebrations, at 6:30pm with a potluck supper for 27 adults and 15 children. This included 6 people from disadvantaged families who came at special invitation through the suggestion of our local community leaders. We also had a visit from Santa Claus and a happy time was had by all. At 8:00pm we had our candlelit Christmas Eve service for 25 adults and 13 children. Photos here are of that special day.

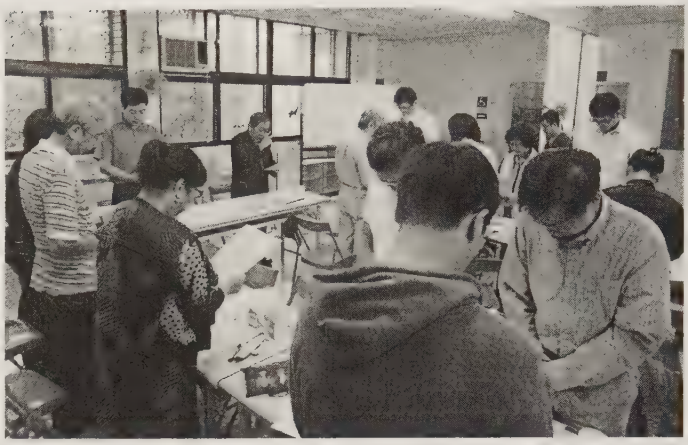
Please continue to pray for our small groups, we have 3 groups meeting, and hope to increase this by another group in this coming year.

We are looking forward to hosting the Diocese of Taiwan Annual Convention from March 7-8, 2014 and we offer a warm east-coast welcome to all delegates. This is the first time for many years that the convention has been held in Hualien and we look forward to this event very much!

TRINITY CHURCH, KEELUNG

Rev. Richard Lee Ray-Chiang 李瑞強牧師

Our new Outreach Ministry.



Yilan County is famous for its geothermal hot springs, and since 2006 has been connected to Taipei by a new tunnel. Jiaosi (Jiaoxi) 礁溪 is a town only a few km from the end of the tunnel, a mere 40 minutes' drive from central Taipei City. In recent years more than 120 hotels have sprung up in the town, all offering hot spring facilities.

A few years ago, Trinity Church (with the support of the northern deanery churches) started wondering about the possibility of starting up ministry in Yilan County. Our vision for Yilan started as a tiny seed that grew over the months as prayer intensified, and our calling to reach out to children and old people in Yilan led to exploratory monthly visits to the area. We were led to Jiaosi, where we investigated the possibilities of outreach, checking out the needs of the people, contacting the other churches in the area, talking to local government officials and the social welfare department.

Jiaosi Township area has a population of 35,880, with 5 primary schools and 2 middle schools, but there are 234 registered single-parent families and 579 disadvantaged families. There are 3 after-school homework centres helping poorer families, two in local primary schools and one in a local temple. But all are in central and southern Jiaosi, and there is nothing in the northern part of the town.

The northern area of Jiaosi has a government-run 'activity centre' for local residents to use. On the top floor used to be a nursery school, but last July it relocated to the Jiaosi Primary School, 1.3 km away and the local government offered Trinity Church the free use of the top floor for 'ke-fu ban' homework classes for local children. At the beginning of October 2013, we signed an agreement with the local government to use the activity center.

On October 5, clergy and church members from northern Taiwan came for a service of blessing led by Bishop David J. H. Lai (see top photo). We have seconded 3 of our Trinity Church to serve here, 2 youth workers (Jung-Sheng and Bing-Wei, shown in the photo with Rev. Richard Lee) and one female social worker (Yu-Ru).

On October 7, the first 6 children started their homework classes. Within a few weeks, the number had risen to 14 children. We are excited that next semester, after Chinese New Year, the number will rise to 30, the maximum we can take. We are delighted that at the Christmas Party, 8 of the parents came along, and when we held our Trinity Church weekend 'Family Camp' in Yilan, there were a total of 30 adults and 20 teenagers from both Trinity and Jiaosi. Please do pray for our outreach ministry in Jiaosi!

ST. STEPHEN'S CHURCH, KEELUNG

Rev. Julia Lin Shu-Hua 林淑華牧師

We have been co-operating with the Chinese Christian Relief Association for a long time. They kindly provided bags of food from their Food Bank for St. Stephen's Church to give to the needy people in our community (see photo above left). Another charity that helps us is The Mustard Seed Mission, in the above photo right, the twin boys are so happy to receive gifts from the lady social worker.

Though most of the inhabitants in this community are poor, in fact our Church members really love to read the Word of God. Mr. Kao likes to attend Bible study class, just after coming back from Taipei (see photo below left).

We have a group of about 25-30 young people in our Youth Ministry but it is not easy to run the group! We were so pleased when we had the opportunity to take the young people to Yilan, to train them to ride bikes with another 900 young people and adults in that city. At noon-time our youth went to attend activities outside, including on the rock-climbing wall (see photo below right).

Our children were invited to attend a drama show performed by three elementary schools at the municipal culture center of Keelung city this past fall.

Thank God for the witness and ministry of St. Stephen's Church in this community. When people enter the community on the main road in, they see our church noticeboard with a large red cross, then as they get nearer, they see another sign directing them to the correct place. We have a constant stream of people coming in search of help. Please pray for them and for us!

ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL, TAIPEI

Rev. Samuel Lin Ying-Chiou 林應求牧正, Ms. Tsai Ching-Yi 蔡靜儀傳道

On December 24, St John's Cathedral held our Christmas Eve Celebration, followed by our Christmas Sunday Celebration on December 29. The celebration included contributions from the Cathedral Choir, Sunday school and St. John's Kindergarten classes, followed by our annual Christmas lunch.

On December 28, St John's Cathedral held the wedding of Mr. Chen 陳重博 and Ms. Xie 謝文華, and everyone who attended was deeply touched and abundantly blessed!

We held 2 lectures, one in September and one in November, the first one was on the subject of Rabies and Health (due to a recent outbreak in Taiwan) and the second was on Wine-Tasting. Both received a really good response.

The Young Adult Fellowship Fall Reunion was held on October 12, and

Lawyer Mr. Lin 林永頌律師 was invited to share on the subject of 'Christians and the Social Good, Giving Hope to the Disadvantaged'. The lecture received a great response from the 28 people who attended.

On October 13, St John's Cathedral Sunday Worship was held, especially led by the Youth Fellowship to encourage more young people to join the group.

On November 17, St John's Cathedral welcomed RBC Ministries volunteer 蘇東瀛長老 (Su Dongying) to share his experience.

On November 3, St John's Cathedral had a total of 5 people for baptism.

On January 14, St John's Cathedral had a total of 5 people for confirmation.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH, TAICHUNG

Rev. Philip Lin Li-Feng 林立峰牧師

Rev. Charles Chen Chin-Ti, Rector Emeritus 陳金地榮譽主任牧師

The outside of St. James' Church has had a major facelift this past semester, and a new wooden signboard that covers the length of the church has been installed making the front of the church look very stunning. It was dedicated by Bishop Lai on his visit to St. James on December 15 (see photos here).

Our Christmas outreach celebrations went on for most of December as each of our different ministries held a Christmas celebration to share the story of Christmas with the local community. On December 7, the St. James' Preschool held a Christmas Show, with each class performing songs and dance for their parents to watch. This was held in the auditorium of the local junior-high school. On December 13, the St. James' Language Institute held a Christmas celebration with a concert and performances in the St. James' Playground. On December 28, the St. James' Community Service Center held a Christmas Celebration in the Cultural Center, with sharing and performances by each group. 450 people came along to that event and Rev. Philip Lin shared the message of Christmas with the audience.

On December 24, we held a combined Chinese and English Christmas Eve service. Rev. David Chee preached, Rev. Philip Lin and Rev. Jason Ke celebrated the Eucharist. 87 people attended, and the service was followed by delicious refreshments.

On December 31, we held a New Year's Eve celebration organized by the St. James' Women Fellowship and 61 people attended, of all ages.

We were pleased to welcome a group from the Diocese of Sabah (see photo above), led by Rev. Paul Lau, to visit St. James in November. They also visited the new church outreach in Yilan, Trinity Church in Keelung and Advent Church in Tamsui. There were 10 people on the team and they shared their testimonies with us and encouraged us in our faith.

ST. JAMES' ENGLISH LANGUAGE CONGREGATION

By Warren Sevander

A New Year and New Beginnings

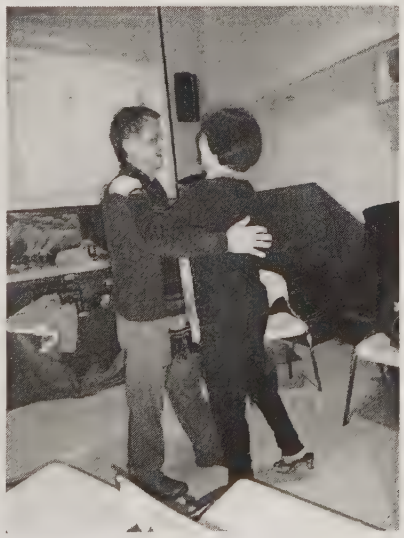
During a relatively short period of time, Christians in Taiwan, as well as in other nations around the world, celebrate the New Year...3 times. Advent, the New Year which is celebrated on January 1 and of course, the Chinese New Year. Three separate New Years' celebrations. Three separate opportunities for "New Beginnings". Change, new opportunities, spiritual growth. The Lord has been involved

in all of it. He made that profoundly clear here this year at St. James.

The weeks during the final two months of 2013 brought many opportunities for us to praise the Lord. God has been at work.

At the beginning of December, the English language congregation began a regular Sunday School program. There are two teachers every Sunday morning. The children have been attending regularly, and are also part of the morning worship service. Clearly, it is a 'ministry in progress', but in all of it one thing is certain. The Lord is blessing the ministry. The children are interested in the things of God. The teachers are growing in their ministry. God be praised!

Towards the end of November, I think that we as a congregation experienced something we have not witnessed during these past four years: a Sunday morning worship service with over 40 in attendance. They just came. The Lord brought them. As one who is involved in the ministry with this congregation, it was an exciting thing for me to behold. I thank our Lord for His great faithfulness.



On December 15, we were honored to welcome our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. David Lai, as our Celebrant for the morning's Holy Eucharist services. It is always an opportunity for us as individuals to personally reflect upon our own spiritual journeys when such a visit occurs. On that particular Sunday, Bishop Lai led a special dedication that took place during the time between the morning's two worship services: St. James has a new sign. Not just any sign, I might say. But one which stands several stories tall on the chapel building. Now, all who travel down our street in Taichung can see that the Lord is worshipped at St. James. Come to St. James. The community knows that we stand for Christ.

One week later, on December 22, a very special thing happened. During the Chinese congregation's worship service, three of our members were baptized: Justin Lin, Spring Shih, and Hsiu-Ling Hsieh (see photo on page 24). Three who profess their faith in Christ. Three who stand for the Lord. Three of whom we are quite blessed to have as part of our worship and fellowship community. Thanks to the Lord for these profound examples of new beginnings.

On Saturday evening, December 28, the English language congregation offered a Service of Lessons and Carols (see photo above). 9 Lessons from Scripture that brought us through the story of salvation provided for all in the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. 9 musical responses – 6 carols and 3 pieces sung by our choir. The service ended with their glorious rendition of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's 'The Messiah'. The closing hymn was, appropriately, 'Joy to the World'. Following that service, there was a special Christmas party (see photo left) that was filled with wonderful food, sweet fellowship, and exuberant music and song.

New Opportunities. New Beginnings. New Ministries. A New Year. "Glory to the Newborn King!"

THE CHURCH OF THE LEADING STAR, TAIPING

Mr. Joseph Ho Ray-En 何睿恩會吏

We are delighted that Rev. Sam Cheng and his family are now worshiping with us each week, and so we can have Holy Communion each Sunday. In the right photo, his grandson is lighting one of the Advent candles on the Advent wreath.

Our Christmas celebrations this year have been extra-special. From December 18-20, deacon Joseph Ho shared the Christmas story with the children of the nearby Guang-Rong Elementary School. He also had the chance to share with over 30 students of the Christian Fellowship at the nearby Asia University in Wu-Feng. On the Friday evening and Saturday morning before Christmas, the children of the kindergarten went around the neighborhood to share the good news of Christmas with the children's families and neighbors (see photos). We visited over 20 homes.

We invited the kindergarten families to attend our Christmas Eve service and we were so pleased that over 40 people came along. Rev. Sam Cheng celebrated the Holy Eucharist for us at the service.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, CHIA-YI

Rev. Simon Tsou Tsai-Shin 鄒才新牧師

From October 25-26, we had a retreat for our church members (see photo above left). We shared about our vision for the next decade. We also thought about what we mean by Church and used the idea of a 'home' as a place for everyone to find peace in God and to love one another. We thought about the Church as a family and how we can become more like a family. We are officially a mission church, but we hope that we can become a parish in the next 5 years. Please pray for us.

October 4 is the "World Animal Day" and we held a service for the blessing of animals on that day. Every member liked this service, because they could bring their pets to Church. On that day the puppy and birds were undisturbed in the service. Many members hope we can have more services like this in the future!

On October 12, we had a fellowship gathering with Mr. & Mrs. Chao's family in their home (see middle photo). We read a few pages from the book "Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them" by Rev. John Ortberg. We had three groups to read and share their ideas.

On November 23, we had a fellowship gathering at Richard's house (see bottom photo). This time we had Eucharist before we read the spiritual book, "Bilder von Jesus" written by Franselm Grün. We had two groups to read and share their ideas.

We have a new church member who received baptism on Christmas Eve (see top photo right). Yu-an Lai is a middle school student.

Finally, we ask for your continued prayers for Mrs. Grace Chien, widow of Bishop Chien and her family, and for our church and its continuing witness in the community.

GRACE CHURCH, TAINAN

Rev. Keith Lee Jen-Cheng 李鎮丞牧師

A group of 33 first-year students from Tainan Theological College and Seminary came to attend the Sunday service at Grace Church on October 16, to observe and to learn the Anglican/ Episcopal Church and its worship liturgy. After the service, we had a learning session, led by the Rev. Samuel Liao and the Rev. Keith Lee, all students had an abundant Sunday!

The Christmas fete was held by the kindergarten, including a performance, and the brothers and sisters of Grace Church sang a Christmas song during the performance. The proceeds of that day, together with all donations were all given to the Christian Mountain Children's Home in Liugue, Kaohsiung, to care for those who are orphaned.

At our Christmas Eve service the kindergarten children and staff participated and sang songs during the service (see left photo). Although it was a Tuesday and a usual working day in Taiwan, in fact lots of people came to attend the service to participate in the real meaning of Christmas.

The brothers and sisters of St. Mark's Church, Pintung, came to visit Grace Church on December 28 led by the Rev. Cheng-chang Cheng. We shared lots of things, memories and our future vision together. Rev. Samuel Liao and Mrs. Liao also participated with us, and gave us lots of encouragement. We all had a good time.

Bishop Lai celebrated the service on January 5, and officiated at the installation of Keith's new ministry as the vicar of Grace Church (see photo below).

Mrs. Wang In-Mei, who had the distinction of being

the longest serving church member in the diocese of Taiwan, passed away peacefully in her sleep in the early morning of January 2, aged 97. The cremation service was held at Tainan Mortuary on January 15, and the memorial service was held at Grace Church on January 18. Bishop Lai attended the service as the officiant and preached in the service. Mrs. Wang's remains are now at Tainan Christian Cemetery together with her husband waiting for the coming of Jesus Christ. Also thanks for the Rev. Leo Tzeng and All Saints Church for their kind help and participation. May the witness and the life of Mrs. Wang be our emulation.

The diocese owns some land located at Sishu community in the South District of Tainan City. The diocese has made a new contract with the Civil Affairs Office of the South District Office, and asked office staff to beautify the land, and also asked the students of Sishu Elementary School to paint pictures of folk stories and traditional customs of its community all around the walls. It is now a beautiful and romantic park, and is a good place for the people there for relaxation and exercising.

ST. ANDREW'S KINDERGARTEN, JIE-DING

Rev. Cheng Chen-Chang 鄭成章牧師

On October 9, the day before Taiwan Double-Tenth National Day, we held a parade for our kindergarten children around the grounds of the kindergarten. The playground was beautifully decorated with lions and dragons (see photo below), and we also had a flag-raising ceremony.

On December 7, we held our kindergarten Christmas Party for parents and children, with an opening ceremony of dances and singing, followed by different stations where children did different sports at each one. Bishop and Mrs. Lai also attended the celebration (see photo above).

On December 25, our teachers performed a Nativity Play telling the story of the birth of Jesus while all the kindergarten children watched. This was followed by a special Christmas lunch for everyone.

We give thanks to God that this past semester, 3 of our teachers have given birth to babies, everything has gone well!

ST. MARK'S CHURCH, PING-TUNG

Rev. Cheng Chen-Chang 鄭成章牧師

bers were members of the youth group at the time when Rev. Charles C. T. Chen was vicar of the church, and so we were delighted that he could come and preach for us on this occasion. We had a special lunch of Ping-Tung foods, and a time of sharing fellowship in the afternoon, led by Rev. Samuel Liao.

A group of seven from our church attended the diocesan trip to Nantou and Sun Moon Lake in November.

Our children's weekend Joy Camp enjoyed a visit with the St. Timothy's Church Sunday School children to Tainan Astronomy Museum on October 26.

On December 21, our Sunday School children went to visit the local hospital to share the good news of Christmas with the patients (see right photo).

On November 10, we held our third official reunion of former and present church members (see photo above). The first one was held in St. James' Church for our 50th anniversary a few years ago, and this is now our third. Most of the former church mem-

On December 1, Bishop Lai came to officiate at the installation of Rev. Cheng as vicar of St. Mark's Church.

At our Christmas Eve service we had 20 people (see photo left).

Please do continue to pray for our ministry in Ping-Tung. Thank you!

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, KANG-SHAN

Rev. Leo Tzeng Wen-Bin 曾文斌牧師

One of the founding members of the Taiwan Episcopal Church, and original member of All Saints Church, Mrs. Wang In-Mei 王映梅 (see photo above left), died on January 2, 2014 aged 97. For the last decade she had lived with her daughter in Tainan, and so the funeral was held at Grace Church, Tainan on January 18.

All Saints Church Adult Sunday School has completed a course of 8 classes of teaching on the Institutions and Culture of Israel in O. T. Times, led by Rev. Leo Tzeng. 7 people attended the whole course.

In November we held our monthly outing to Lion Mountain Park, and in December we visited Jhong-du Wetland Park (see photo above right). Both were well-attended by senior members of the congregation.

Our Advent and Christmas activities started on November 30, when we came together to decorate the church. On December 7 and 14 we visited 2 homes for Advent Family Services, starting at 3:00pm. On Sunday December 8, Bishop Lai came to All Saints for a confirmation service, and one of our adults was confirmed (see photo below). On December 21, we took the Good News of Christmas to the local community, and visited 2 local areas, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. On December 24, we held our Christmas Eve service with 52 people in attendance. After the service we distributed the diocesan 2014 calendars and also gave everyone a breakfast box to take home, full of food for next morning's breakfast.

Our Sunday services now have a revised schedule starting from December. On the second Sunday of every month we will have Morning Prayer followed by Holy Eucharist. On the third Sunday we will have Anointing of Oil and a Healing Service, then Holy Eucharist. On the last Sunday of the month, we will have Sung Eucharist with incense. On all other Sundays, we will have Holy Eucharist.

ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG

Rev. Justin Lin Jun-Ming 林俊明牧師

This year our Christmas theme was 'Love that is long, broad, high and deep'. On December 14, we held a family Christmas Party sharing the Gospel with the local community (see photo above left).

On December 21 we held a Christmas Party at Jia-Shian (see photo above right).

On November 24 we had 2 baptisms and 6 people confirmed (see bottom photo). On December 10, we had Mr. Lin's family for baptism, and on December 29, we had one baptism. Please pray for our new brothers and sisters in Christ.

On October 26, we took the children on an outing to Tainan to the Astronomy Museum (see middle photo left) along with the children from St. Mark's Joy Camp and their leaders. We had such a happy time!

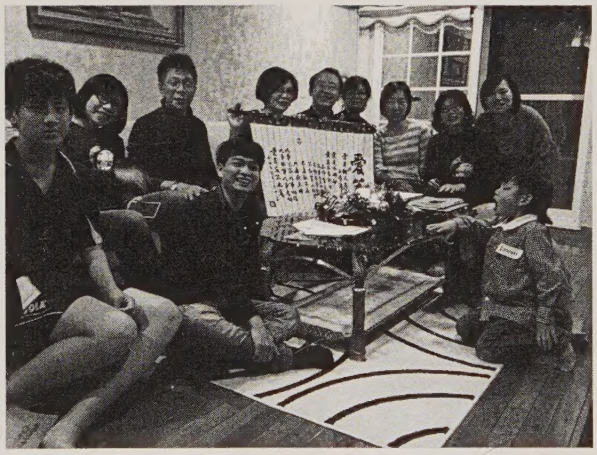
Please do continue to pray for the ministry of St. Timothy's Church in the local community and in the community of Jia-Shian Village in Kaohsiung County. We thank God for the past year and look forward to the new year of 2014 in faith and hope!

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, KAOHSIUNG

Rev. Philip Ho Jeng-Long 何政隆牧師

Praise the Lord for he gave us so much wonderful grace that we surely know he is our dear living almighty God through the amazing stories which have happened among us.

Our senior group is joyful (see top photo), smiling and join together nearer than ever because the leader, Yung Hen Ti, likes making chances to have lunch meetings for our dear senior group which is composed of 9 grandpas and grandmas who are almost all over 80 years old. The monthly lunch meeting make them happy and smiling and looking younger!



Starting December 1, including the four Sunday worship services at our St. Paul's Church, there were four weeks that were filled with love from our dear Lord for we had the Advent candles of the beautiful Advent wreaths lightened up brightly and shining in one or more families or offices of our congregation. They were the Soa family, Ti family, Wu office, Chang family, Wu family, Lee office and Liu family (see middle and bottom photos).

We invited many St. Paul's Kindergarten children and their parents to enjoy a happy party making beautiful advent wreaths on December 7, and about 70 children and their parents came. We held a similar activity but making ginger bread houses instead, on December 21 and about 80 children and their parents came (see top photo above).

The amazing Baptism Service on December 24.

At the beginning of 2013, there was a hope deep in the mind of Rev. Philip Ho. He wished that there might be 20 people be baptized in the coming year. By July, there had only been 7 people baptized so far in 2013, then all became silent through to November. But our dear Lord is the Almighty God who does wonderful miracles alone by himself.

Starting at the end of May, there have been weekly Bible Study lunch meetings in the office of our church sister Evan Wu who is the Chief leader in her office. We have been having between 7-9 people meeting together to worship our Lord and to share their experiences of prayer among the group every Monday. On September, 3 members said they wanted to be baptized. In October, the number increased to 6 and in November it became 8. Two other people outside of the group also decided to be baptized only two weeks before Christmas so we had a total of 10 people baptized in the Christmas Eve Service (see middle photos here). The following week, December 29, we had the granddaughter of Rev. Samuel Liao, I-Sing Liao, baptized. So in total we had 18 people baptized in 2013.

It is 4 more than the number 14 in 2012 and the percentage increase is 28.5%. Wow! How great is our Lord! He does miracles and shows amazing grace to St. Paul's Church.

After the Christmas Eve Service, which included the 10 baptisms and happy worship hymns that were sung by 20 children of our St. Paul's Kindergarten and 20 adult members of our congregation, we came out of our church and sang songs such as "Silent Night, Holy Night", "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and waved to everybody outside the church and every vehicle passing by our church to proclaim the good news of our dear Lord Jesus.

On the evening of December 21, we had a birthday party for the leader of our Shining Eagles Youth Group, Chung-Chi Chen, whose nick name is "Rice Ball" (see bottom photo, page 34). His birthday is right on that day December 21. It is a wonderful story that should be told forever! At the beginning of last summer, July 1 to July 5, we began a very nice summer camp which was designed to call some students who were of junior high school, senior high school or of university and lead them to serve elementary school students. After the summer camp, there were 6 students of the senior high and of university who made up their minds to accept the Lord Jesus to be their Savior. Some of them wanted to serve the elementary students again so they designed another summer camp for the end of the summer, August 25 to 27. By the love that germinated through the interactions among them in the two summer camps, they made a decision to meet together monthly to worship the Lord and play sports games to join them tightly for the coming future.

On New Year's Eve, 2013, Rev. Philip Ho was invited to encourage the group members of sister Evan Wu to develop their future business careers. In accordance with Evan's wishes, Philip shared about the importance of receiving salvation from our Lord Jesus as the base for every person to develop their futures as multiple business people. It was a great help for that group. After the whole group meeting, we took a picture at the square of the H Resort in south of Ping Tung County (see photo above).

We started an important course of 'Champions' Life Education, designed to teach about Sex Education for older children in elementary school. The school is located near St. Paul's Church within three minutes walking distance. We had all the students of all 6 classes of 6th grade and 1 class of the 5th grade of that school, total around 240 students taught by group teachers of our congregation led by Philip. On January 5, we had an award ceremony in the school (see bottom photo). The principal came to the ceremony, and gave commendations to the 6 best students of every class and gave Certificates of Appreciation to every teacher of St. Paul's group.

Praise the Lord indeed!

TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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